

# Electricity

Problems with electricity are a leading cause of home fires.

## Safe Electrical Systems

- There could be a problem with your home's wiring if you notice any of these things: **Picture 1**
  - \* Your power goes out a lot.
  - \* The lights in your home flicker.
  - \* You smell something or hear a noise when you use an electrical appliance.
  - \* You see a spark when you plug something into an outlet.
- If you have these problems, have an electrician come to inspect your wiring. The electrician can also install special electrical outlets in the bathroom and near the kitchen sink. These protect you from a dangerous shock if water and electricity come together.
- People can get a dangerous shock if they stick something into an electrical outlet. Buy special "faceplates" to cover all your electrical outlets if young children live in or visit your home often. These will prevent a child from sticking something into the outlet. Adults will be able to use them. **Picture 2**

## Safe Lighting

- Use the correct light bulbs in all lamps and light fixtures. Look inside where the bulb goes. You should see a label that tells you which light bulb size (wattage) is right for the fixture. **Picture 3**

## National Safety Standards

- Look for a mark on the label, such as ETL Listed or UL, when you buy electrical cords and appliances (such as toasters, microwaves or coffee makers). This mark will tell you that the product meets national safety standards.

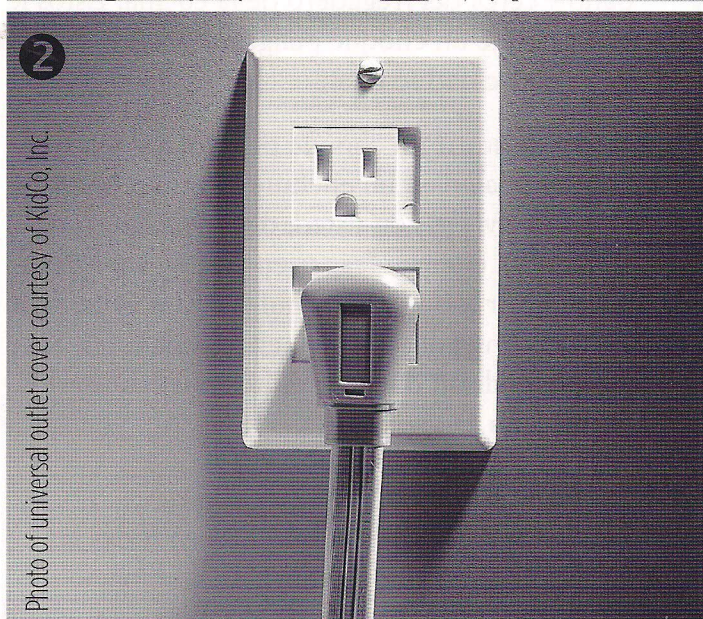
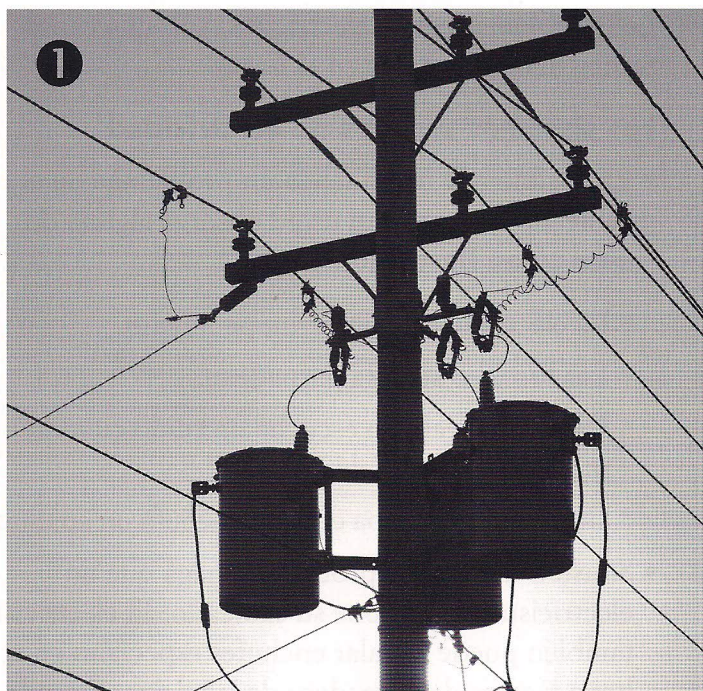


Photo of universal outlet cover courtesy of KidCo, Inc.

